Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21, to page 3, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Such a gel utilizing the interaction between the polymer chains is known to change its volume in response to temperatures, pH, or solvent compositions. In particular, that the temperature-responsive interaction between polymers can produce low temperature-shrinking and high temperature-expanding characteristics, and some applications of such a material to a drug delivery system, has been proposed. For example, a hydrogen bond-utilizing system has been reported, which uses an interpenetrating network (IPN) structure of polyacrylamide and poly(acrylic acid), and investigations are being made regarding its application to control of drug containment/release properties (for example, see Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 3-79068 and *"J. Control Release"* No. 16, pages 215-227 (1991). ~~*"J. Control. Release"* No. 13, page 577, by Okano et al., 1992).~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11, to page 4, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, the process of forming the IPN gel having a complex of two polymer gel components requires mixing a previously synthesized first component-containing polymer gel with a second component and allowing the components to penetrate before polymerization. Additionally, in order to process the gel particles into a particle shape, a certain technique, such as a method of performing the reaction in a very small vessel, is required to prevent the polymerization of the second component from producing the coupling between the first component particles. For example, a known method includes forming the first component-containing polymer gel in a capillary (for example, see Ilmain et al., *Nature*, 349, page 400, 1991). Another known method includes processing the first component-containing polymer gel into the desired form, then allowing the second component-containing solution to penetrate, and independently polymerizing the second component-containing polymer gel so that the first component-containing polymer gel particles do not aggregate by

the second component (for example, see *J. Control Release"* No. 16, pages 215-227 (1991).~~"*J. Control. Release*", 13, page 577, 1992 by Okano et al.).~~ Another method includes allowing a monomer for forming the second component to penetrate into a large bulk gel that contains the first component, then performing polymerization and pulverizing the product. However, such a method is not industrially practical, since an extremely long time is necessary for the second component-forming monomer and crosslinker to penetrate into the first component-containing bulky gel.